

lated things have been lumped together under one specific name it is nearly always a most difficult matter to recognize and group properly the real distinctive characters. Professor Setchell certainly deserves congratulation for getting hold of the tangled threads in what seems to be the right way in this *Scinaia* matter.

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David Douglas's Journal

A volume of unusual interest to the Pacific Northwest has just been published by the Royal Horticultural Society of London, entitled "Journal kept by David Douglas During His Travels in North America 1823-1827, Together With a Particular Description of Thirty-three Species of American Oaks and Eighteen Species of *Pinus*, With Appendices containing a List of the Plant Introduced by Douglas and an Account of his Death in 1834."

Douglas was the botanist for whom the most important timber tree in the Pacific Northwest, viz., the Douglas or red fir, is named.

The portion of the present volume of most interest to students of the Northwest is that part of the verbatim Journal kept by Douglas during his first trip to western America, from the time he reached the mouth of the Columbia River, April 7, 1825, until he sailed from Hudson Bay September 15, 1827. This journal covers 218 printed pages. During this period Douglas made botanical explorations from his headquarters at Fort Vancouver as far south as the Rogue River Mountains in Oregon; northward to Gray Harbor and the head of Puget Sound; in the interior all along the Columbia River to Kettle Falls; the region between Spokane and the present site of Lewiston, Idaho; the Craig Mountains; the Blue Mountains about the source of the Walla Walla River; and finally across the continent by way of the upper Columbia River and down the Athabaska and Saskatchewan Rivers to Lake Winnipeg and thence to Hudson Bay.

The only account of these explorations previously published is a condensed narrative by Douglas published after his death by Sir William J. Hooker. This condensed narrative is republished in the present volume. The original is in Douglas's own hand-

writing and was apparently written by him after his return to London in 1827. In contrast with the detailed notes in the Journal now published, the brief narrative contains some inaccuracies which have led to doubt being expressed concerning Douglas's reliability. For example, in the abridged account he speaks of the peak which he christened Mount Brown, as "the highest peak yet known on the continent of America," and of the neighboring Mount Hooker as of nearly the same height. As Douglas was already familiar with the high peaks of the Cascade Mountains, his statements were long accepted by geographers, but modern measurements give Mount Brown the rather modest elevation of 9,050 feet.

Douglas was for a time greatly lionized after his return to London, and it was doubtless this influence which inspired the exaggerated statements in his brief account of his travels, and it is refreshing to find no trace of this spirit of boastfulness or exaggeration in the detailed narrative now published.

From the standpoint of the historian the journal is interesting and illuminating from the side lights which it throws on the men who were the most active agents of the Hudson Bay Company in the Northwest and on the methods used in their commercial operations; to the botanist the detailed narrative will help clear up many of the mooted points concerning the exact locality where Douglas found each of his new plants. Several of these plants, strange to say, have never since been found.

The publication of Douglas's Journal unabridged is in part due to the efforts of the reviewer who four years ago consulted the original manuscripts in London and finding them very different from the abridged accounts already published, urged upon the Royal Horticultural Society the desirability of printing them complete. Not only has the Society done this, but they have also included a number of other papers by Douglas never before published.

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